

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 November 2003 (20.11.2003)

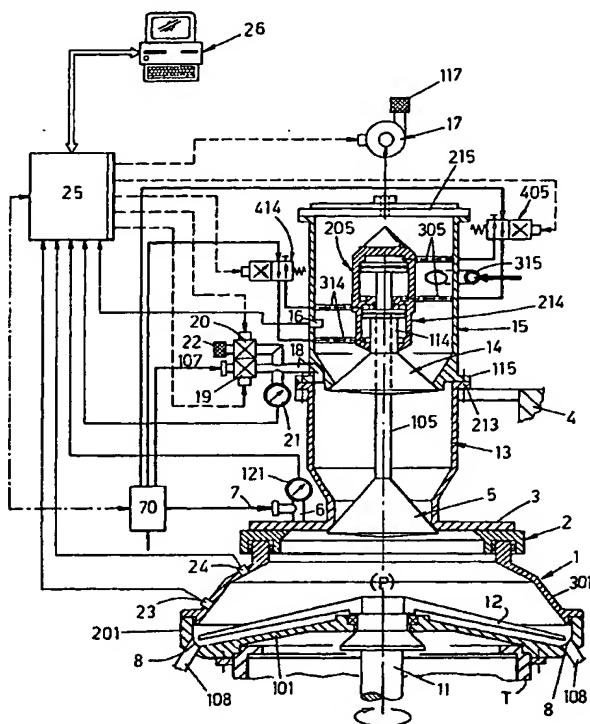
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/095310 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: B65B 37/02, 37/14 (74) Agents: PORSIA, Attilio et al.; Succ. Ing. Fischetti & Weber, Via Caffaro, 3/2, I-16124 Genova (IT).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP03/04820 (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 8 May 2003 (08.05.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: BO2002A000283 13 May 2002 (13.05.2002) IT (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): B.L. MACCHINE AUTOMATICHE S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Ronchi Inferiore, 30/B, I-40061 Minerbio (IT).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): FACCHINI, Libero [IT/IT]; Via Ponte Buco, 22, I-40068 San Lazzaro di Savena (IT).
- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR FEEDING POWDERED, GRANULAR OR HERB-BASED PRODUCTS



(57) Abstract: A product hopper (1) is designed so that it can be sealed with respect to the means (13) for the cyclical feed of the product and with respect to the external environment, and is designed so that it can be pressurized with compressed gas, in such a way that the said product is fluidized by the compressed gas and is pushed by the latter in a continuous and uniform way towards the dosing stations (D), which are connected to the periphery of the said hopper and are designed to promote the flow of the product towards them. A description is also given of the means which enable the hopper to operate continuously even when batches of product are introduced into it in a cyclic way.

WO 03/095310 A1